

layers of fibrous backing material, and wherein said step of bonding said at least one layer of a fibrous backing material to said coated hard facing tiles comprises bonding said plurality of layers of fibrous backing material to one another and to said elastomeric encapsulation of said hard facing tiles.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

said step of bonding said at least one layer of a fibrous backing material to said coated hard facing tiles comprises:

- a. applying a thin film of a binder to each said layer of fibrous backing material such that said binder remains on the surface of the individual layers and does not fully impregnate said layers of fibrous backing material;
- b. overlaying said plurality of layers over said coated hard facing tiles; and
- c. curing said binder.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein

said step of bonding said at least one layer of a fibrous backing material to said coated hard facing tiles comprises:

- a. applying a binder in intermittent bands to each layer of fibrous backing material such that said binder does not impregnate the entire surface of each said layer of fibrous backing material;
- b. overlaying said plurality of layers over said coated hard facing tiles; and
- c. curing said binder.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein

said step of bonding said at least one layer of a fibrous backing material to said hard facing tiles comprises:

- a. impregnating each layer of fibrous backing material with a binder;
- b. overlaying said plurality of layers over said coated hard facing tiles; and

c. curing said binder.

10. A fan blade containment system comprising:

- a. A fan blade case;
- b. a plurality of elastomer-encapsulated hard facing tiles bonded to the outer surface of said fan blade case; and
- c. a fibrous backing layer bonded to the outer surface of said plurality of elastomer-encapsulated hard facing tiles.

11. The fan blade containment system of claim 10, wherein:

said hard facing tiles are constructed of boron carbide.

12. The fan blade containment system of claim 10, wherein:

said hard facing tiles are coated with a castable, low temperature curing, polymer.

13. The fan blade containment system of claim 10, wherein:

said elastomer-encapsulated hard facing tiles are bonded to said fan blade case with a low temperature curing polymer.

14. The fan blade containment system of claim 10, wherein:

said fibrous backing layer is constructed of at least one layer of a bi-directional woven Kevlar.

15. The fan blade containment system of claim 10, wherein:

said fibrous backing layer is constructed of a plurality of layers of a bi-directional woven Kevlar, and wherein said plurality of layers are bonded in layers to one another.

16. The fan blade containment system of claim 15, wherein:

said plurality of layers are bonded to one another with a low temperature curing polymer.

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